South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

August 12, 2013 Permit Application Public Notice Forestar Group, OCRM-13-209-B

The Department has received an application for a permit for the alteration of a critical area. The application was submitted pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (Act 123) of 1977 South Carolina General Assembly. The application in brief, is described as follows:

LOCATION:

On and adjacent to Copahee Sound at Stratton Place Road, Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina.

WORK:

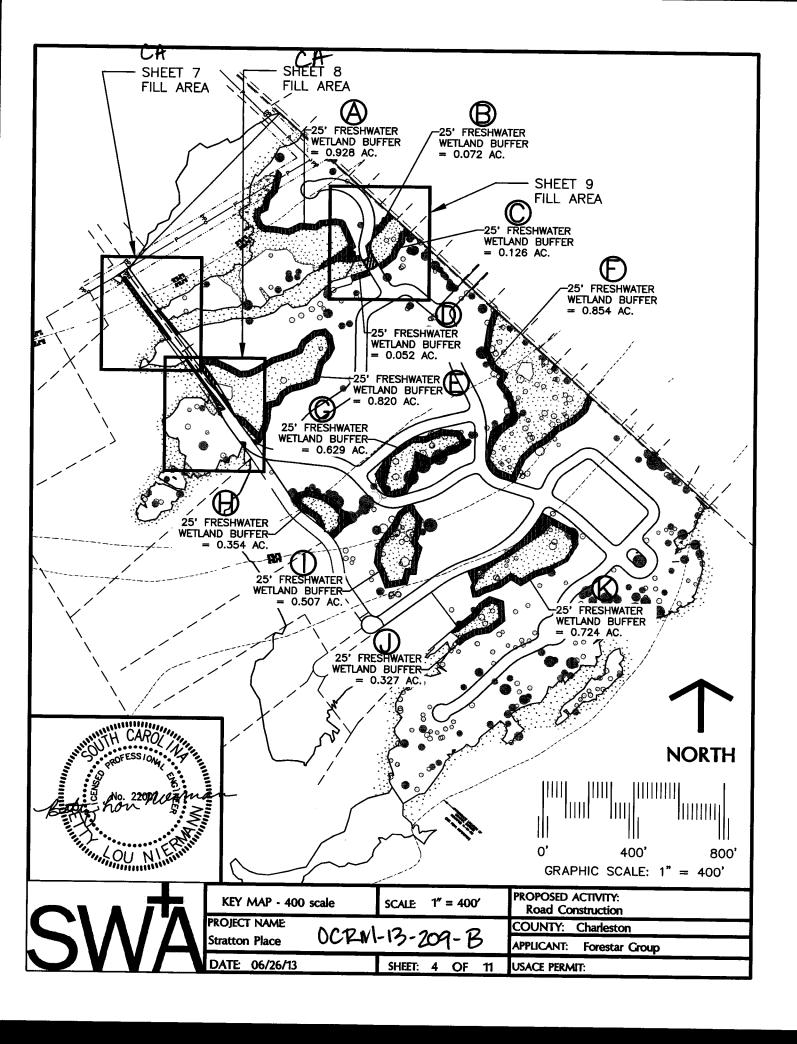
The work as proposed consists of placing fill in tidal saltwater wetlands (Critical Area). Specifically, the applicant seeks to fill 0.1502 acres of tidal saltwater wetland for improvements to the existing Stratton Place Drive. The applicant will place fill in 4 critical area locations; the locations are identified as areas #1 (0.0976), #2 (0.0256), #3 (0.0226) & #6(0.0044) on the plans (pages 7 & 8). The applicant seeks to mitigate the critical area impacts by creating 0.313 acres of saltwater wetlands. The proposed creation site is located near impact area #2 (page 7). The work as described is for road improvements to the existing Stratton Place Drive. PLEASE NOTE: The Corps of Engineers is reviewing this project under their Nationwide Permit #14.

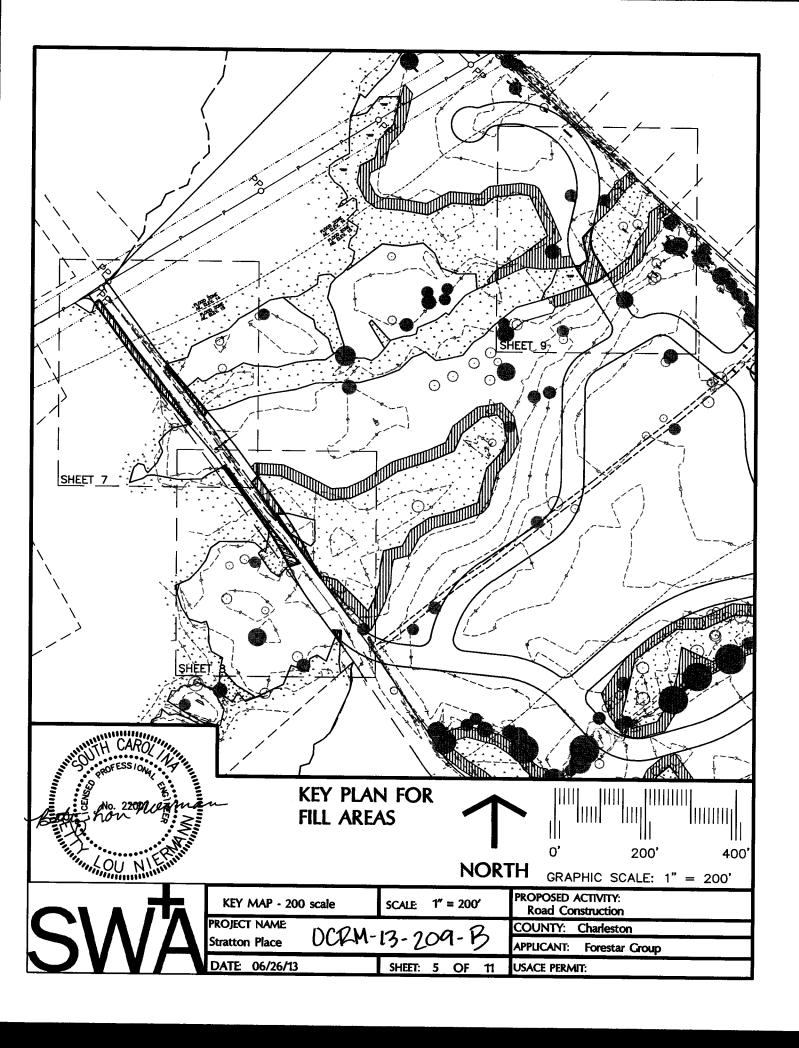
This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and agencies to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Department can be based. Comments concerning the proposed work must be submitted in writing, setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

Comments regarding this application must be received by the Department on or before <u>September 11, 2013</u>. For more information, please contact **Steve Brooks** at **843-953-0235** or via email at **brookss@dhec.sc.gov**.

NOTE:

Plans depicting the proposed work are available and will be provided upon receipt of a written request or may be viewed on the Department website at www.scdhec.gov/environment/ocrm/public notice.htm.





SUMMARY OF FILL AREAS FOR CRITICAL AND FRESHWATER **WETLANDS**

CRITICAL MARSH AREAS:

AREA	# 1	0.0976	AC.
AREA	#2	0.0256	AC.
AREA	#3	0.0226	AC.
AREA	# 6	0.0044	AC.

TOTAL:

0.1502 AC.

VOLUME SUMMARY OF FILL AREAS

AREA #1	630 CY
AREA #2	165 CY
AREA #3	146 CY
AREA #4	422 CY
AREA #5	204 CY
AREA #6	23 CY
AREA #7	564 CY

TOTAL: 2154 CY

FRESHWATER WETLAND AREAS:

AREA #4	0.0654 AC.
AREA #5	0.0316 AC.
AREA #7	0.0793 AC.
TOTAL	0 1767 40

0.1/63 AC.

TOTAL FILL AREAS:

CRITICAL MARSH: 0.1502 AC.

FRESHWATER

WETLAND:

0.1763 AC.

TOTAL:

0.3265 AC.

SUMMARY OF FRESHWATER WETLANDS BUFFER

BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER BUFFER	BCDEFGHIJ	0.928 0.072 0.126 0.052 0.820 0.854 0.629 0.354 0.507 0.327 0.724	AC. AC. AC. AC. AC. AC. AC.
TOTAL A	CREAGE	5.393	AC.

TIDAL WETLAND MITIGATION AREA:

0.313 AC.

TOTAL TRACT ACREAGE:

81.850 AC.

FRESHWATER WETLAND

ACREAGE:

10.550 AC.

FRESHWATER WETLAND

ACREAGE PRESERVED:

10.373 AC.



FILL	AREAS	SUMMARY

SCALE

PROPOSED ACTIVITY: Road Construction

PROJECT NAME Stratton Place

OCRN-13-209-B

COUNTY: Charleston

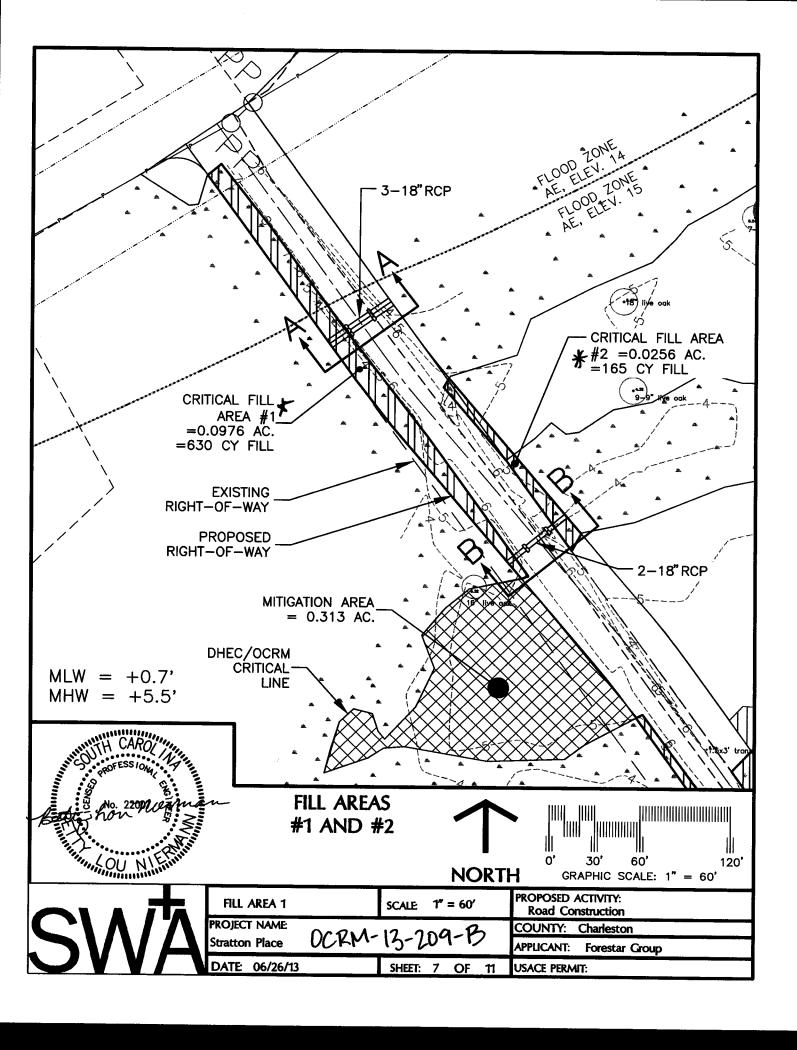
APPLICANT: Forestar Group

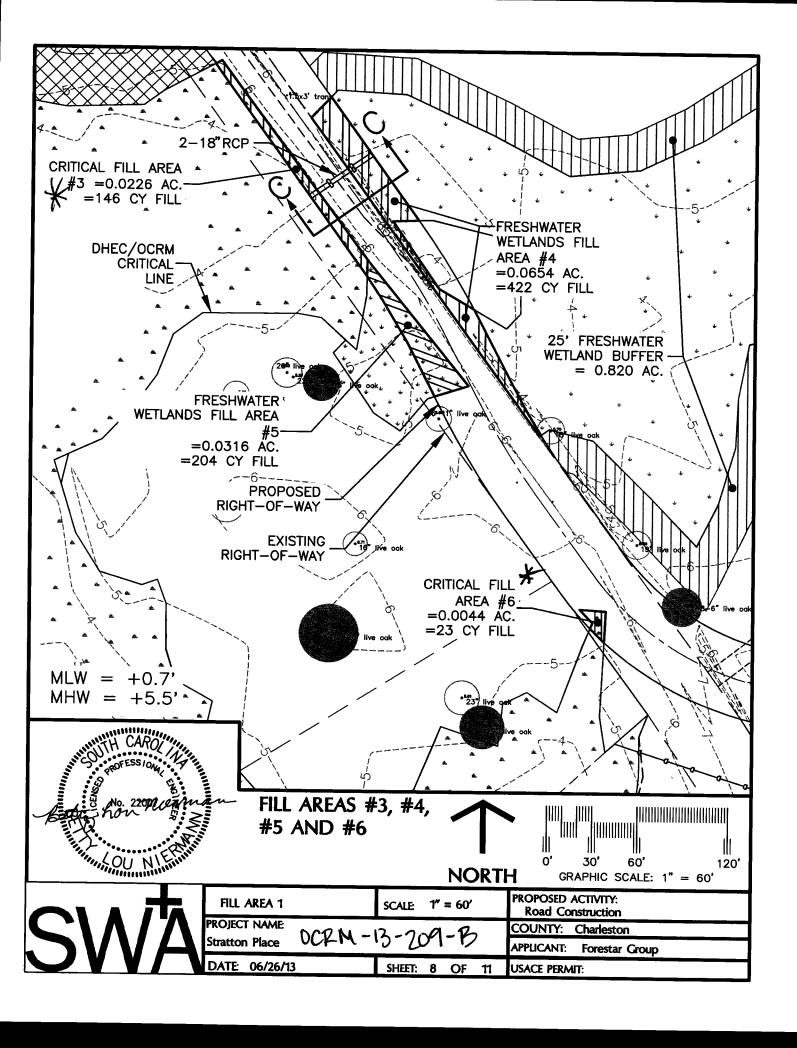
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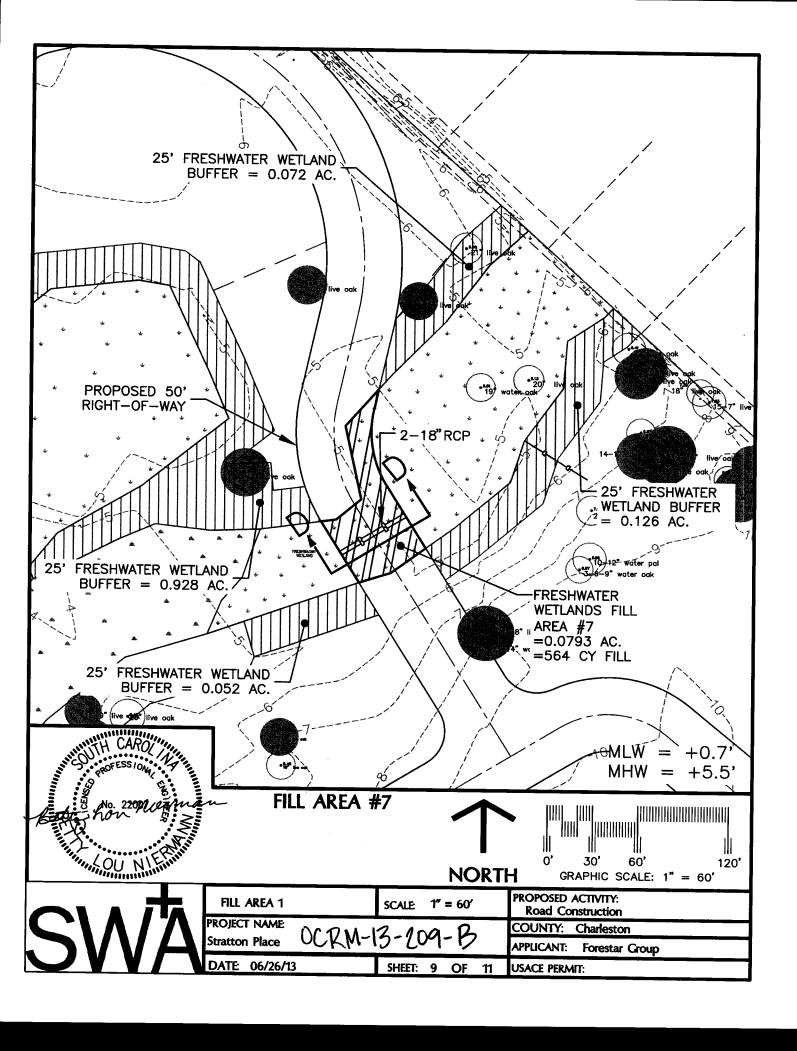
SHEET: 6 OF 11

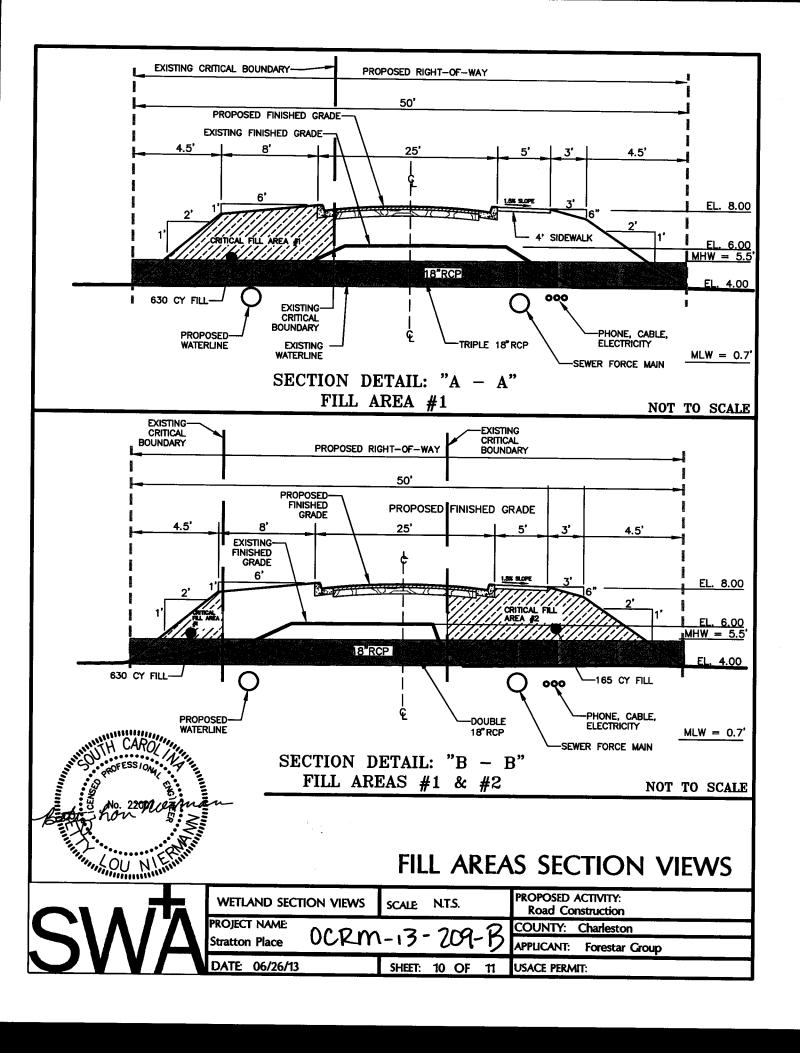
USACE PERMIT:

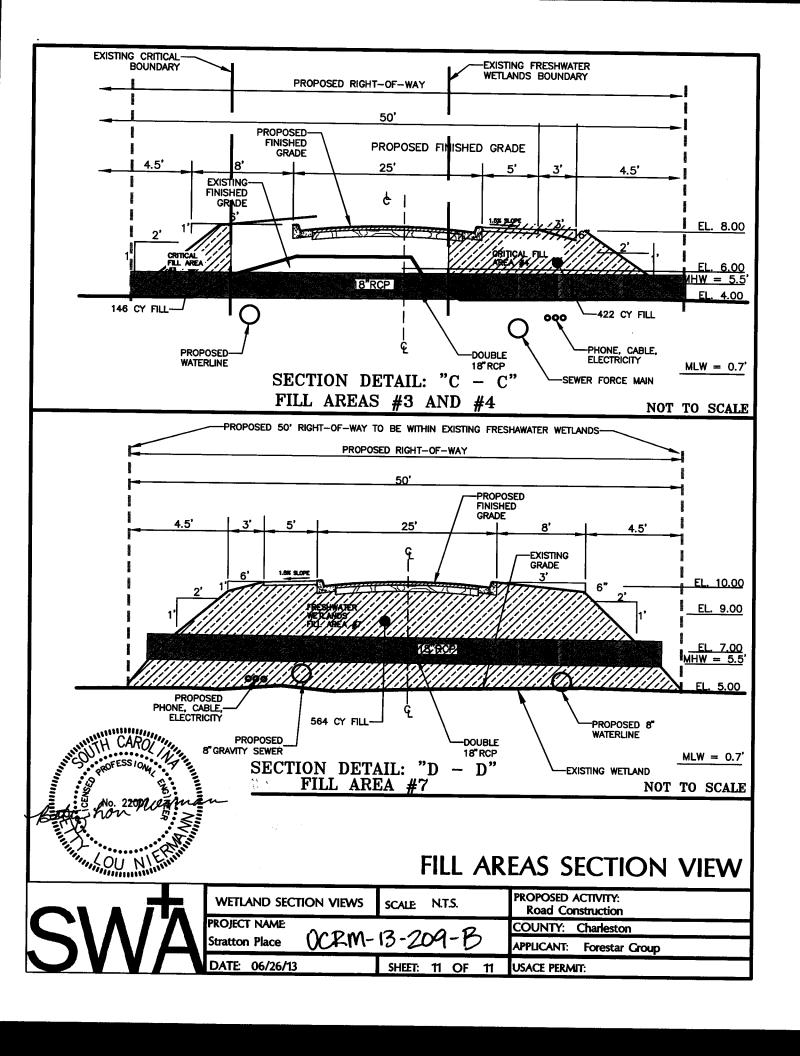


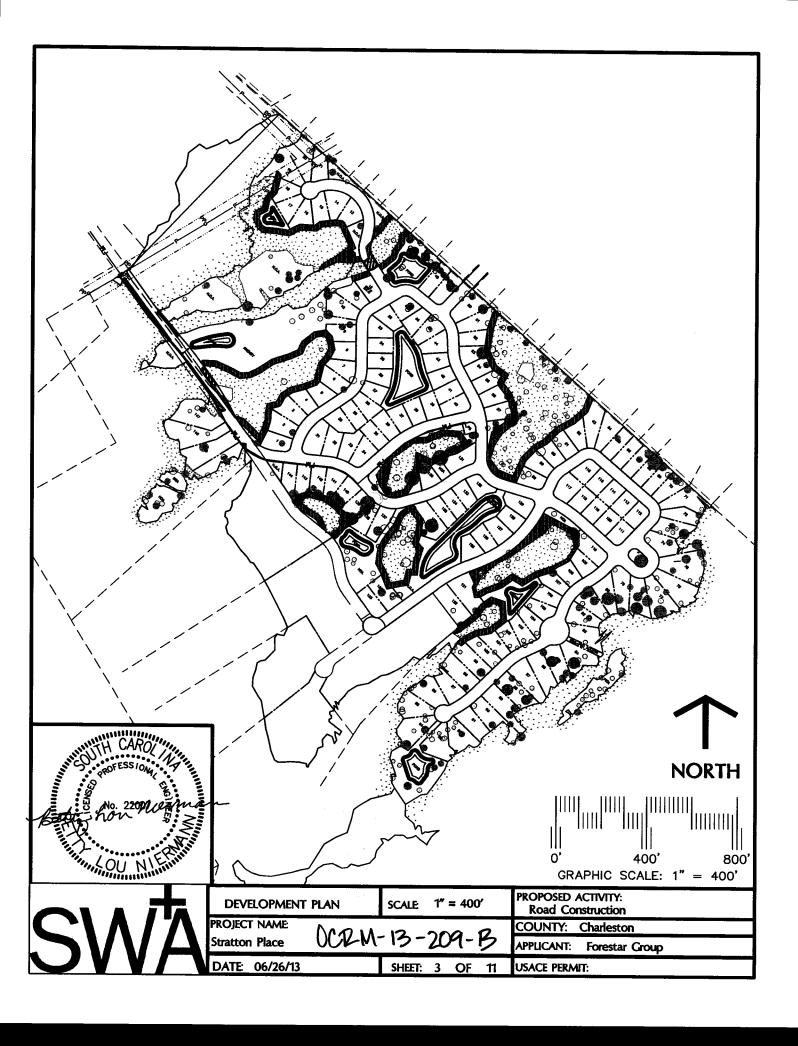


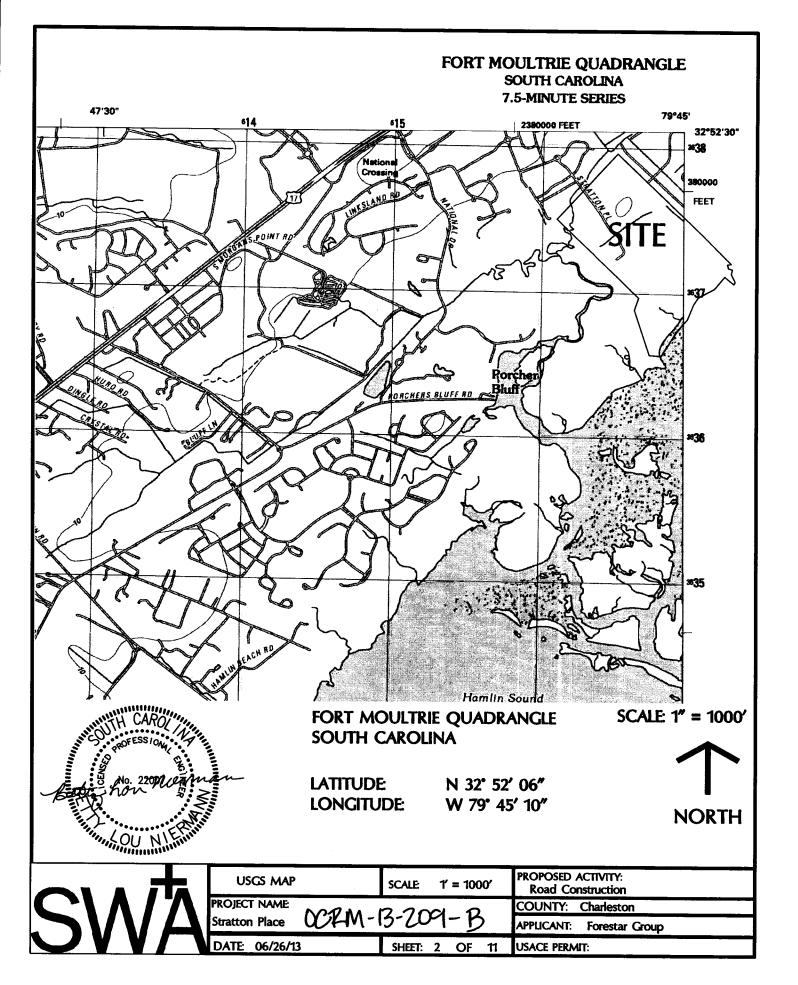


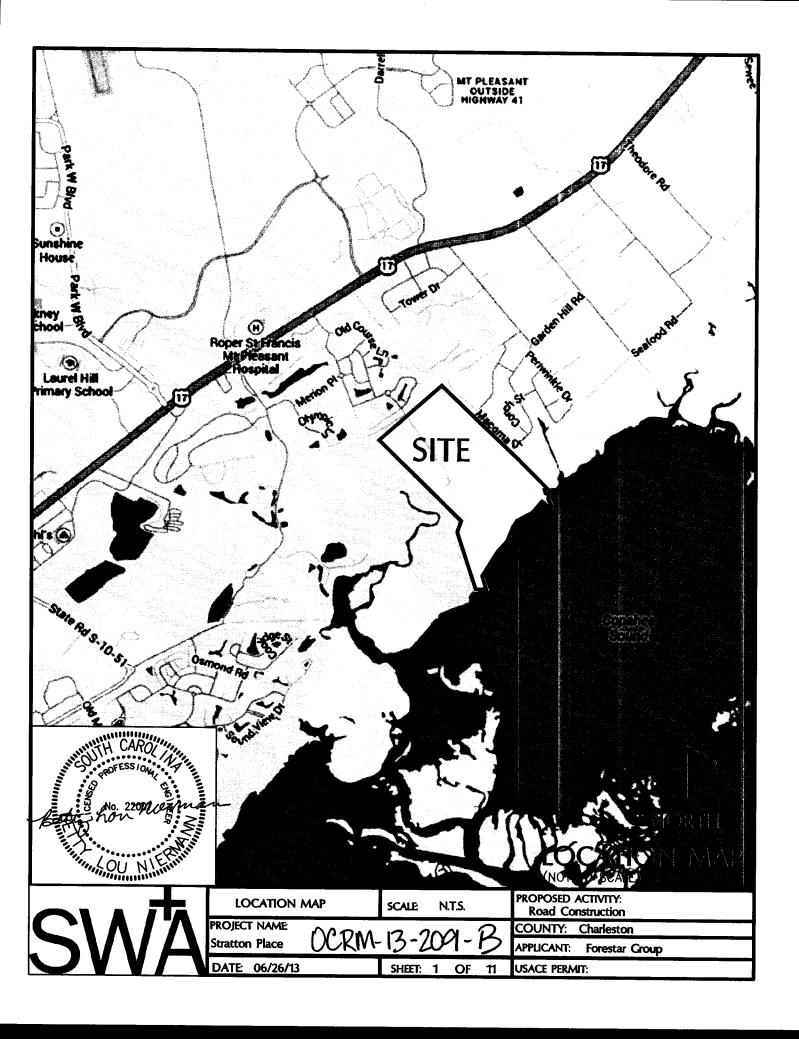












Mitigation Plan For Saltwater Creation at Stratton Place

July 2013

1.0 Background

The applicant and owner of the subject property, Forestar Group, (Forestar) has applied to the USACE and SCDHEC for the appropriate permits and certifications to construct improvements to an existing access road and construct a new interior road to serve Stratton Place located in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. Stratton Place consists of the existing Stratton Place Drive, which crosses both freshwater and saltwater wetlands, as well as approximately 82 acres also interspersed with freshwater and saltwater wetlands.

It is necessary to impact both freshwater (0.097) and saltwater (0.1502) wetlands to construct improvements to the existing Stratton Place Drive for improved safety, efficiency and to meet standards required to convey the road to the Town of Mt. Pleasant. An additional 0.0793 acres of impact to freshwater wetlands is necessary to construct an interior road to serve the site. Mitigation credits will be purchased from the Pigeon Pond Mitigation Bank to compensate for impacts to freshwater wetlands.

In order to compensate for the loss of 0.1502 acres of tidal saltwater wetlands, Forestar has proposed to create 0.313 acres of saltwater wetlands. The acreage of creation was determined in accordance with the mitigation criteria set forth in *Section R30-4*.G of SCDHEC-OCRM's Critical Area Permitting Regulations. Pursuant to these criteria, Forestar must develop a mitigation plan that will successfully create saltwater wetlands at a 2:1 ratio of mitigation acres to impact acres. This plan includes the proposed creation activities, methods of implementation, monitoring and success criteria anticipated to meet the compensatory mitigation requirements for the proposed saltwater impacts associated with the proposed improvements to Stratton Place Drive.

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2.0 Restoration Activities

The vegetation within the proposed creation area is currently dominated by a dense scrub layer of wax myrtle (Myrica cerifera), juvenile loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), and groundsel trees (Baccharis glomeruliflora). The soils in the selected mitigation area are classified as Scranton loamy fine sand and Tidal marsh soft by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Scranton loamy fine sand is characterized by sandy soils with small quantities of loam present throughout the upper horizons.

Forestar will establish an elevation at which the creation area is expected to inundate with saltwater based on elevations in the adjacent vegetated marsh. The applicant will then excavate the creation area to the established elevation for inundation.

Once the established elevation is achieved within the creation area, the restoration site will be re-vegetated using *Spartina alterniflora* and/or *Juncus roemerianus* sprigs "borrowed" from the adjacent marsh. The borrowed sprigs will be hand dug from random locations within adjacent areas so as not to borrow too much material from one location. The sprigs will then be hand-planted on three (3) foot centers throughout the creation area. Combined with volunteer species provided by the seed and rhizome sources from the adjacent marsh, it is anticipated that the planted species will successfully populate the creation area.

Upon approval of these proposed mitigation activities and corresponding issuance of the appropriate permits and certifications, Forestar will schedule the activities to begin the following spring so as to validate the timing of a six-month follow up monitoring after RECEIVED the growing season.

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3.0 Monitoring

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Following planting, two random plots will be established within the creation area. The center of each plot will be marked with PVC pipe and will serve as a basis for the evaluation of future monitoring designed to document the establishment and success of the created site. In addition, two plots will be established within the borrow area to

OCRM-13-2091-B

monitor and document re-growth.

An initial baseline monitoring will be conducted upon completion of planting the site to

document planted species as well as proper inundation. This documentation will be

submitted to OCRM. After six months, a second monitoring and report will be

completed to determine the success of the initial plantings. Monitoring will then occur

annually for three years. In each successive year, percent coverage of volunteer

vegetation and survivability of individual planted species within a ten foot circular plot

will be recorded in an annual report to be provided to OCRM. Annual reports will

include results of monitoring, general site descriptions and conditions, photographs of the

site and any recommendations by the monitor that would improve timely success of the

site. If after a monitoring event in which it has been determined that the site has

completely established and meets success criteria before the end of the three year period,

future monitoring may be suspended following consultation between Forestar and the

permitting agencies.

4.0 Success

The creation effort will be considered successful and complete when 75% of the site is

vegetated with indigenous saltwater species and the site has physically integrated into the

adjacent tidal marsh.

5.0 Contingency

If, at the end of the three year monitoring period, success criteria have not been met, the

permittee will consult with the appropriate permitting agencies to determine what specific

remedial actions should be taken. Remedial action may include replanting and/or re-

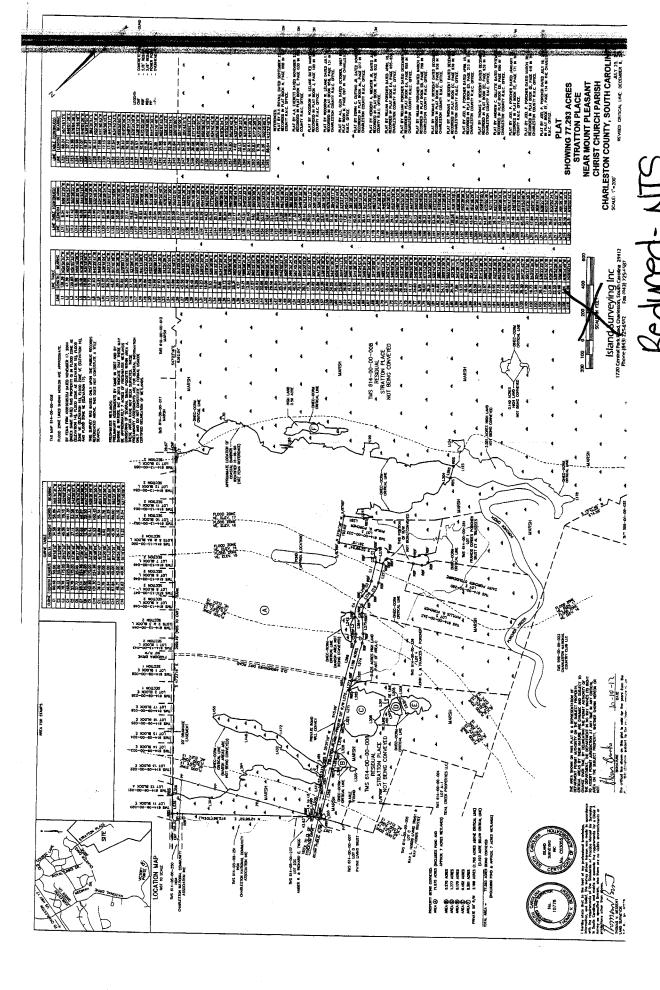
grading and continued monitoring.

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